| Year | SCA Released (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 1745.47 |
| 1996-97 | 1448.87 |
| 1997-98 | 1922.45 |

(c) It has helped particularly in the economic development of SC families below the poverty line. During the last three years 3.54 lakh SC families have been economically assisted under various economic development schemes implemented under Special Component Plan.

(d) The Government provide financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra under the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes for SCs for implementing various welfare programmes for SCs in Maharashtra:

(1) Share Capital Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporation.

(2) Post-Matric Scholarship for SC/ ST students.

(3) Pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those engaged in unclean occupation.

(4) Boys Hostel for SC Students.

(5) Girls Hostel for SC Students.

(6) Coaching & Allied Schemes.

(7) Book Banks.

(8) National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependence.

Besides, grant-in-aid is given direct to voluntary Organisations for implementing various welfare programmes for SCs in Maharashtra.

**National Policy on Welfare of Elders**

3600. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to evolve a national policy on welfare of elders in view of about 11 crores elders above the age of 60 years residing in the country; and

(b) the action plans to provide affordable health care facilities to elders under welfare programmes in the international year of elder persons declared by UN i.e., 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir, a draft National Policy for Older Persons is being finalised after consultation with experts and leading voluntary agencies working in this area.

(b) Health care is one of the components of the draft National Policy for Older Persons. As a part of this Ministry's ongoing Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisation for programmes relating to Aged, financial assistance is provided to Voluntary Organisations for inter alia, operating & maintaining Mobile Medicare Units for Elders. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also providing primary health care facilities through Primary Health Centre and Community Health Centre. Specialist Medical facilities are available in sub-district Hospitals. Health needs of ageing people are also being addressed through the National Health Scheme especially, the National Programmes for Control of Blindness under which mostly old people are beneficiaries. Besides, various medical insurance schemes are available.

**National Trust for People with Mental Retardation**

3601. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Trust for people with mental retardation has since been set up:

(b) if so, the details of constitution and funds placed at its disposal;

(c) if so, the infrastructure which has been set up for operating the trust; and

(d) the estimated number of mentally impaired persons in the country and the criteria laid down if any to identify the beneficiaries of the Trust?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The estimated number of mentally impaired persons in the country is about 2.5% of the General Population and the question of identifying the beneficiaries of the trust would be considered after the trust is formally set up.

**SCA under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan**

3602. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Central Assistance under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan Scheme implemented by Government;

(b) the funds allocated state-wise and year-wise for the last three years; and

(c) whether there has been timely utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The details of schemes of Special Central Assistance under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan are enclosed at Statement I and II (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The statements indicating funds allocated/released and utilised State/UT-wise for the last three years in respect of Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan are enclosed at Statement III and IV.

**Statement I**

*SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN FOR SCHEDULED CASTES*

Special Central Assistance is an additive to States' Special Component Plans for Scheduled Castes and is intended for the totality of States' efforts for the development, especially the economic development of Scheduled Castes. It is to give an added thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of the SCs by providing resources for filling the critical gaps and for providing vital missing inputs so that schemes could be more meaningful. States have been given full flexibility in utilising SCA with the only condition that it should be used in conjunction with SCP on income generating economic development schemes/programmes for the target group. It is upto the State Governments/UT Admns. to formulate and implement suitable schemes for the economic development of the target group according to the local occupational patterns and economic activities available. SCA is released to the States/UTs on the basis of the following set criteria:

| | |
|---|---|
| I. First instalment. | |
| (a) On the basis of SC population of the States/UTs | 40% |
| (b) On the basis of relative backwardness of the States/UTs. | 10% |
| II. Second instalment | |
| (a) On the basis of percentage of SC families in the States/UTs covered by composite economic development programmes in the State Plan to enable them to cross the poverty line. | 25% |
| (b) On the basis of percentage of SCP to the Annual Plan as compared to SC | 10% |